(XXXI YEAR.) THE (Nº 1608)

MARYLAND GAZETTE. 105

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1776.

LISBON, *Feb.* 22.

THE viceroy of Brasil and the commandants of our places in America, have received orders to complete all the regiments, and to keep the men constantly employed in the exercise of arms. A large quantity of flores and ammunition has likewise been sent, within these few days, from Rio Janeiro to the Bay of All Saints; a precaution which is judged the more necessary at this time, as the war which subsists at present between England and her American colonies excites the attention of all the powers which have possessions on that continent. Indeed, should the colonies once triumph, they would easily be able to contract alliances that might have bad consequences.

LONDON, *March* 21.

In the debate which arose in the committee of supply last Monday night, on the estimate of the army extraordinaries, the death of the gallant gen. Montgomery was lamented in strains of the most pathetic eloquence that ever were heard in the house of commons. Three of the principal orators, Mr. Burke, Mr. Fox, and col. Barre, distinguished themselves on the occasion, and vied with each other in the panegyric of that hero. General Burgoyne, though he expressed a strong zeal against the American cause, in a very handsome manner did justice to his merits; and said, that all his virtues were abundantly rewarded, when they were thus "praised, wept, and honoured by the muse he loved." *

Lord North censured the unqualified liberality of the praises bestowed on general Montgomery by the gentlemen in opposition, because they were bestowed upon a rebel; and said he could not join in lamenting his death as a public loss. He admitted, indeed, that he was brave; he was able; he was humane; he was generous; but still he was only a brave, able, humane, and generous rebel; and said, that the verse of the tragedy of Cato might be applied to him,—"curse on his virtues, they've undone his country."

Mr. Fox rose a second time, and said the term of rebel, applied by the noble lord to that excellent person, was no certain mark of disgrace, and therefore he was the less earnest to clear him of the imputation; for that all the great assertors of liberty, the saviours of their country, the benefactors of mankind, in all ages had been called rebels; that they even owed the constitution, which enabled them to sit in that house, to a rebellion.

Lord Irnham said it was a shame to punish the poor voters of Hindon and Shaftesbury for bribery, while the names of several members of parliament were to be found in the list of contractors, amassing sums of money out of the calamities of their country. He moved that the accounts on the table of all the articles of extras for the army at Boston, sour-grout and all, might be published.

Mr. Tuffnal complained of an extravagant article for pickles and vinegar for 6000 men at Boston for three months, and said, that if they had lived upon nothing else the whole time, it could not have come to half the money.

Sir Joseph Mawbey objected to the war, and all the charges of it; he was bitter against the ministry, and said somebody must answer in the long run for this destructive war.

Lord North, Sir Grey Cooper, and Mr. Pownal, spoke in support of the measures, the expences and the resolutions of the committee of supply, and on putting the questions they were carried.

Mr. Burke then made the following motions:

Resolved, That it appears to this house that the sum of £ 849,000 14s 8d one farthing, charged as extraordinary expences of the army, was chiefly incurred for services within the town of Boston in North-America. It passed in the negative.

Resolved, That ample provision for the comfortable accommodation of our troops at Boston having been made by the public, there could be no pretence to call upon the nation for any further supply. Passed in the negative.

It may be depended upon as an absolute fact, that the prince of Brunswick positively refused to let his regiment go to America; and on its being insisted on, resigned his commission immediately.

BOSTON, *June* 20.

'Tis worthy of special notice, that the 14th of June, 1774, was the last day allowed for trading vessels to leave or enter the port of Boston: through the cruelty of a British act of parliament; and that on the 14th of June, 1776, through the blessing of God upon the operations of a much injured and oppressed people, was the last day allowed for British men of war, or ministerial vessels to remain or enter within the said port, but as American prizes. Thus has providence retaliated.

WATERTOWN, *June* 17.

Last Thursday the inhabitants of the town of Boston were made acquainted, by beat of drum, that an expedition was to be undertaken against our enemy's ships in Nantasket road, and for erecting proper fortifications in the lower harbour. Accordingly detachments from the colonial regiments commanded by the colonels Marshal and Whitney, and battalion of train, commanded by lieut. col. Crafts, were embarked on board boats at the Long-wharf, together with cannon, ammunition, provisions, intrenching tools, and every necessary implement, and proceeded for Pettick's-island and Hull, where they were joined by some continental troops and sea-coast companies, so as to make near 600 men at each place; a like number of militia from the towns in the vicinity of Boston harbour, with a detachment from the train, and some field-pieces, took post at Moon-island, Hoff's-neck, and Point-Alderton.---At the same time a detachment from the continental army under the command of col. Whitcomb, with two 18 pounders, one 13 inch mortar, with the necessary apparatus, intrenching tools, &c. were embarked for Long-island, to take post there.---The troops did not arrive at their several places of destination till near morning, occasioned by a flat calm, notwithstanding, such was the activity and alertness of our men, that they had the cannon planted, and a line of defence hove up on Long-Island and Nantasket-hill in a few hours, when a cannon shot from Long-island announced to the enemy our design: Upon which a signal was immediately made for the whole fleet, consisting of eight ships, two snows, two brigs, and one schooner, to remove and get under way. The commodore (Banks) bore our fire, and returned it with spirit, till a shot from Long-island pierced the upper works of his ship, when he immediately unmoored, or cut his cables, and got under sail; and happy for him that he did so! for, in a small space of time afterwards, a shell from our works fell into the very spot he had just before quitted. Unhappily our cannon did not arrive at Pettick's-island and Nantasket as soon as might have been wished, but the fire from the latter place being properly pointed against the commodore's ship, who came too in the light-house channel, is apprehended to have done considerable execution. In short, the enemy were compelled once more to make a disgraceful precipitate flight; and we have it now in our power to congratulate our readers on our being in full possession of the lower harbour of Boston; and had the wind been to the eastward, we are confident we should have had the much greater pleasure of giving them joy on our being in the possession of many of their ships. Through Divine providence, not one of our men were hurt.

The ministerial fleet on Friday last, before they quitted the harbour of Boston, blew up the light-house, which entirely destroyed the same.

HARTFORD, *June* 24.

Part of a letter from Capt. Seth Harding, commander of the brig Defence, in the continental service, to the hon. governor Trumbull, dated Boston, June 19.

"*Honoured Sir,*

"I sailed on Sunday last from Plymouth; soon after we came to sail, I heard a considerable firing to the northward. In the evening I fell in with four armed schooners, near the entrance of Boston harbour, who informed me they had been engaged with a ship and brig, and were obliged to quit them. Soon after I came up into Nantasket road, where I found the ship and brig at anchor. I immediately fell in between the two, and came to anchor about 11 o'clock at night. I hailed the ship, who answered, "From Great-Britain." I ordered her to strike her colours to America. They answered, asking,---"What brig is that?"---I told them "The Defence."---I then hailed him again, and told him, "I did not want to kill his men, but would have the ship at all events," and again ordered them to strike; upon which the major (since dead) said, "yes, I'll strike!" and fired in a broad-side upon me, which I immediately returned, when an engagement began which lasted three glasses, when the ship and brig both struck. In this engagement I had nine men wounded, but none killed. The enemy had 18 killed, and a number wounded. My officers and men behaved with great bravery, none could have outdone them. We took out of the above vessels 210 prisoners, among whom is col. Campbell, of gen. Frazer's regiment of Highlanders. The major was killed in the engagement.

"Yesterday a ship was seen in the bay, which came towards the entrance of Boston harbour; upon which I came to sail, with four schooners in company; we came up with them, and took them without an engagement; there were on board 112 Highlanders. As there are a number more of the same fleet expected every day, and the general here urges my stay, I shall tarry a few days, and then proceed for New-London. My brig is much damaged in her sails and rigging.

I am, with great respect,

Your honour's most humble servant,

SETH HARDING."

The following is a list of the officers taken in the transports bound to Boston from Scotland, with Highlanders on board.

Lieutenant-colonel Campbell; captains Campbell, Maxwell, and Mackenzie; lieutenants Archibald Campbell, —— Campbell, Dickinson, Belsawer, Osborne, M'Lane, Hugh Campbell, Mackenzie, Gordon, Frazer; quarter-master Ogilvie; ensign Frazer; surgeon's mate, Burnes.

Volunteers, with the rank of officers (who are impatiently waiting at "the pool" for the death and old shoes of commissioned officers) Messrs. Flint, M'Dougall, M'Raine, Wilson, John Campbell, Duncan Campbell, Colin Mackenzie, M'Lavith, Hume, and Dwar. Privates, 450.

Col. Campbell, we hear, was to have the chief command of the two Scotch battalions

NEW-YORK, *June* 29.

The following authentic account is communicated by an officer of the detachment it principally respects.

On advice that a reinforcement was necessary at the Cedars, a small fort 45 miles S. W. from Montreal, where a party of 400 men, under the command of major Butterfield, were posted; on the 16th of May, 140 men under the command of major Henry Sherburne, were detached from Montreal. He met with great difficulties at the lake, which, after crossing, he was obliged to repass and cross again, so that it was the 20th before he could proceed from thence with 100 men, including himself, the rest being left for guards and other necessary services. About 11 or 12 o'clock they set out for the Cedars, distant 9 miles, and having marched about five, they were attacked by a large body of savages and Canadians, who under cover of a wood fired upon them; our people though entirely exposed maintained an obstinate engagement for one hour and forty minutes, when the savages having surrounded, rushed upon and disarmed them; then a scene of savage barbarity ensued, and many of our people were sacrificed to their fury, butchered with tomohawks and other instruments of murder. The enemy consisted of about 100 Canadians and 400 savages, who immediately stripped the prisoners almost naked, and drove them to the fort, where they were delivered to capt. Foster, of the 8th regiment, who had with him about 40 regulars, and then commanded the fort, which had been the day before surrendered to him, with little if any resistance, by major Butterfield, an event which was neither known, nor in the least suspected, by major Sherburne.

Capt. Foster and the regulars kept within the lines, and were not of the party who surrounded and so barbarously used our people; but after they were brought to the fort, they were repeatedly stripped of the small remainder of their cloaths, till many of them had not sufficient to hide their nakedness. Our loss in the whole action was about 28, viz. killed and wounded in the action, and killed afterwards in cold blood, about 20; carried off by the savages, seven or eight. Of the enemy were killed 22, whole deaths were ascertained, and among them a chief warrior of the Seneca tribe, on whose account our prisoners were probably used with the more cruelty, insult and abuse. Major Sherburne and the other officers were sent to an Indian town called Connasadoga, at the lake of the two mountains, the private men to a desolate island in the middle of the lake, where they were very scantily supplied with provision, barely sufficient to keep them from starving, and though the weather was cold, without any cloaths, and without any covering but the canopy of heaven, for eight days, when they were released on a cartel agreed to between gen. Arnold and capt. Foster, viz. That there should be an equal exchange of prisoners, within two months, allowing for casualties, and for the performance, on our part, were pledged the bodies of four captains, who were left as hostages, viz. capt. Sullivan (brother to the general) capt. Bliss, of major Sherburne's party, captains Stephens and Green, of major Butterfield's party.

General Arnold, with a party of about 800 or 900 men, arrived the 26th, and though with about 500 he appeared upon the lake, happily for the prisoners he did not cross it; if he had, it appeared from every circumstance that they would have been all murdered, dispositions having been made for that purpose; nor was it certain, considering the difficulty of access to the enemy, that he could have obtained any considerable advantage over them, or if he had, that he could possibly have cut off their retreat.

PHILADELPHIA, *June* 24.

We hear, by a letter from New-York, that intelligence was received there of the 19th instant, of the armed sloop Schuyler having taken, about fifty miles from that city, on the south side of Long-island, a ship and sloop bound to Sandy-Hook. The ship from Glasgow, with a company of the forty-second regiment, had been taken by one of commodore Hopkins's fleet, who took the soldiers out and ordered her to Rhode-island; after which she was retaken by the Cerberus, and put under convoy of the sloop. As capt. Pond informs, there were five commissioned officers, two ladies, and four privates on board.

A letter from Salem in New-England says, "By a number of ship-masters who have very lately made their escape from Halifax, we are informed, that twenty transports with troops and three frigates are gone into the bay of Fundy to fortify a pass there, and prevent the continental forces from attacking their main body at Halifax."

Extract of a letter from Boston, June 13.

"Seven or eight transports have arrived below. This night we shall take several heights, which will oblige them either to give us battle or else go off if they can. We are resolutely determined they shall not remain where they now are 48 hours longer."

Extract of a letter from New-York, June 24.

"My last to you was by Friday's post, since which a most barbarous and infernal plot has been discovered among our tories, the particulars of which I cannot give you, as the committee of examination consists of but three, who are sworn to secrecy. Two of Washington's guards are concerned, the third they tempted to join them made the first discovery.---The general report of their design is as follows.---Upon the arrival of the troops, they were to murder all the staff, who

* Pope.

town. Gilbert Forbes, gunſmith, in the Broadway, was taken between two and three o'clock on Saturday morning, and carried before our provincial congreſs, who were then ſitting, but refuſing to make any diſcovery, he was ſent to gaol and put in irons. Young Mr. Livingſton went to ſee him early in the morning, told him he was ſorry to find he had been concerned, and, as his time was very ſhort, not having above three days to live, adviſed him to prepare himſelf. This had the deſired effect; he aſked to be carried before the congreſs again, and he would diſcover all he knew. Several have been ſince taken, between twenty and thirty, among them our mayor, who are all now under confinement. It is ſaid their party conſiſted of about five hundred.

"I have juſt heard the mayor has confeſſed bringing money from Tryon, to pay for rifle guns that Forbes had made. Burgoyne is arrived at Quebec with his fleet."

WILLIAMSBURG, *June* 14.

This day arrived in town, from Georgia, on his way to the General Congreſs, George Walton, Eſq; one of the delegates from that province; alſo lieutenants Walton and Pannell, on the recruiting ſervice. By theſe gentlemen we learn, that the Convention of Georgia have authoriſed their delegates in Congreſs to concur in any ſcheme which may be propoſed for the benefit of the United Colonies, even to a total ſeparation from Great-Britain; and that, in the mean while, a form of government had been eſtabliſhed in the province.

The following gentlemen are choſen officers for the ſix companies of light horſe directed to be raiſed by the hon. general convention, viz. Captains, Theodorick Bland, jun. Benjamin Temple, John Jameſon, Lewelling Jones, Henry Lee, jun. and John Nelſon, Eſqrs. Lieutenants, Richard Call, Cuthbert Harriſon, William Penn, Spotiwood Dandridge, John Belfield, and Addiſon Lewis, Eſqrs. Cornets, John Henry, James Jones, William Lindſay, John Watts, Henry Peyton, and Henry Clements, Eſqrs.

Two maſters of veſſels came to town this week, who were lately taken by the miniſterial cruiſers, and made their eſcape. They report, that lord Dunmore's whole army is now reduced to 40 regular ſoldiers, and 200 of the black fuſileers, 175 of which laſt corps died on their paſſage from Norfolk to Gwyn's iſland; and that Andrew Sprowle, Eſq; of Golport, three days after his landing, departed this life, great part of which he ſpent in Virginia, much to his emolument, having amaſſed, by trade, a very capital fortune.

A Spaniſh brig from the Havannah, bound to Philadelphia, with 12,800 dollars on board, is taken off the capes of Delaware by the Liverpool frigate.

June 22. Laſt Monday an expreſs arrived at headquarters from gen. Lee, who left his excellency the 6th inſtant, at Little-river, on the road to Charleſtown, with three battalions of the North-Carolina troops, marching with all poſſible expedition to the aſſiſtance of that place; general Clinton, with upwards of 50 ſail of men of war and tranſports, having appeared off their bar the Tueſday before, where they caſt anchor. Two other North-Carolina regiments, and col. Muhlenburg's Virginia battalion, were likewiſe on their march for Charleſtown; with whoſe aſſiſtance it is not doubted but our brethren in South Carolina will be able to defeat any attempts of their enemies, and, when under the conduct of ſo able and experienced a commander, give them that chaſtiſement which they are ſo richly entitled to.

By the ſame expreſs we learn that a ſloop arrived at Charleſtown the 13th ult. from St. Euſtatia, with 10,000 wt. of gunpowder; the maſter of which informed, that a large veſſel had arrived at that iſland from Holland, deep loaded with arms and ammunition. He alſo ſaid, that all the French ports in the Weſt-Indies were now open to us, and that their ſhips of war have received orders to protect our veſſels in and out of their harbours; that the French are fortifying Dunkirk, which produced a remonſtrance from the Britiſh court, but without effect.

Laſt Thurſday capt. Barron took, and brought up to Jamestown, a tranſport ſhip with 220 Highlanders on board, being part of Frazer's battalion, moſtly recruits, and part of the 42d regiment, or royal highland watch. They were landed yeſterday morning, and arrived here under a guard the ſame day. The tranſport had 16 wooden guns mounted; She was made prize of ſome little time before by the Congreſs privateer (as was alſo another tranſport that was in company with her) who took their officers from them, their arms and ammunition, and put on board ten hands to carry her into port; but being ſeparated from the Congreſs in a gale of wind, the men overpowered thoſe who had charge of the veſſel, and were ſteering in ſearch of lord Dunmore. Upon ſight of capt. Barron's veſſel they diſpatched a boat to him, with a ſerjeant, one private, and one of the men who were put on board by the Congreſs, to make inquiry; the latter (finding a convenient opportunity) informed capt. Barron of their ſituation; upon which he boarded her and took poſſeſſion. They have been out about 7 weeks from Greenock, and ſailed in company with a large fleet. The above men, it is ſaid, are all that were contained in both tranſports; the officers, arms, and ammunition were put on board the other.

ANNAPOLIS, July 4.

THE Convention of this colony have reſolved, that a new Convention be elected for the expreſs purpoſe of forming a new government, *by the authority of the people only*, and enacting and ordering all things for the preſervation, ſafety and general weal of this colony; and have directed four repreſentatives to be choſen for the upper, middle, and lower diſtrict of Frederick county, two for the city of Annapolis, two for Baltimore town, and four for each of the other counties of this colony; and have appointed Thurſday the firſt day of Auguſt next for the elections in the counties, and Monday the fifth day of Auguſt for the elections in Baltimore town and the city of Annapolis.—All freemen (except thoſe pualified as eremites) above twenty-one years of age, being freeholders of not leſs than 50 acres of land, or having viſible property in the colony to the value of 40 pounds ſterling at the leaſt, and *no others*, are to be admitted to vote for members for the counties and Baltimore town; all freemen, above twenty-one years of age, owning a whole lot of land in the city of Annapolis, or having viſible eſtate of 20 pounds ſterling at the leaſt, within the province, or having ſerved five years to any trade within the city and being a housekeeper, and *no others*, are to be admitted to vote for members for the city of Annapolis: provided ſuch perſon ſhall have reſided in the county, diſtrict, city or town, where he ſhall offer to vote, one whole year next preceding the election.—The elections are to be made viva voce, and held for all the counties (except Frederick, Charles and Cæcil) at places of holding the county courts: the elections for the diſtricts of Frederick county are to be held at the the places appointed by the Convention in July laſt: the election for Charles county at the houſe of Bennett Hanſon Clements: the election for Cæcil county at the Head of Elk river.—Any perſon qualified to vote (except the regular officers and ſoldiers) may be elected, if above twenty-one years of age and ſhall have reſided in the colony one whole year preceding the election.—No perſon is to come armed to the election, nor any muſter to be made on the day of the election, nor can any battalion, or company of militia, or any ten men thereof give in their votes immediately ſucceeding each other, if any other voter, who offers to vote, objects thereto. Judges of the election are appointed for each county, the city of Annapolis and Baltimore town: the land on the outh and weſt ſides of the lines lately run between this colony and Pennſylvania are declared to be taken and accepted as within the juriſdiction of Maryland, and as part of the counties thereof adjoining thereto, and the inhabitants are equally to ſhare in all the burthens, privileges, and benefits with others the people of this colony.

The intended convention is to meet at the city of Annapolis, on Monday the 12th day of Auguſt next, and is not to continue beyond the firſt day of December next.

We are informed that the following are the INSTRUCTIONS *drawn up and ſigned by a great number of the inhabitants of* CHARLES *county,*

To JOSIAS HAWKINS, THOMAS STONE, ROBERT T. HOOE, JOSEPH H. HARRISON, and WILLIAM HARRISON, Eſqrs.

WE the ſubſcribers, freemen of Charles county, in the province of Maryland, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the preſent ſtate of the unhappy diſpute between Great-Britain and the United Colonies, and the very great diſtreſs and hardſhips they have brought upon us thereby, think proper to deliver you our ſentiments, and to inſtruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in the next convention, as repreſentatives of this county. Reaſons for the mode of voting and determining queſtions by a majority of counties have not appeared to us to exiſt ſince the laſt general election; therefore we charge and inſtruct you to move for and endeavour to obtain a regulation for voting individually, and determining queſtions by a majority of members, and not of counties, in future. And as we know we have a right to hear, or be informed what is tranſacted in convention, we inſtruct you to move for and endeavour to obtain a reſolve for the doors of the houſe to be kept open in future, and that, on all queſtions propoſed and ſeconded, the yeas and nays be taken, and, together with every other part of your proceedings, publiſhed, except ſuch only as may relate to military operations queſtions on which ought to be debated with the doors ſhut, and the determinations thereon kept ſecret.

The experience we have had of the cruelty and injuſtice of the Britiſh government, under which we have too long borne oppreſſion and wrongs, and notwithſtanding every peaceable endeavour of the United Colonies to get redreſs of grievances, by decent, dutiful, and ſincere petitions and repreſentations to the king and parliament, giving every aſſurance of our affection and loyalty, and praying for no more than peace, liberty, and ſafety, under the Britiſh government, yet have we received nothing but an increaſe of inſult and injury, by all the colonies being declared in actual rebellion; ſavages hired to take up arms againſt us; ſlaves proclaimed free, enticed away, trained and armed againſt their lawful maſters; our towns plundered, burnt, and deſtroyed; our veſſels and property ſeized on the ſeas, made free plunder to the captors, and our ſeamen forced to take arms againſt ourſelves; our friends and countrymen, when captivated, confined in dungeons, and, as if criminals, chained down to the earth; our eſtates confiſcated, and our men, women, and children, robbed and murdered. And as at this time inſtead of commiſſioners to negociate a peace, as we have been led to believe, were coming out, a formidable fleet of Britiſh ſhips, with a numerous army of foreign ſoldiers, in Britiſh pay, are daily expected on our coaſt to force us to yield the property we have honeſtly acquired, and fairly own, and drudge out the remainder of our days in miſery and wretchedneſs, leaving us nothing better to bequeath to poſterity than poverty and ſlavery. We muſt, for theſe reaſons, declare, that our affection for the people, and allegiance to the crown of Great-Britain, ſo readily and truly acknowledged till of late, is forfeited on their part. And as we are convinced that nothing virtuous, humane, generous, or juſt, can be expected from the Britiſh king, or nation, and that they will exert themſelves to reduce us to a ſtate of ſlavery, by every effort and artifice in their power, we are of opinion that the time is fully arrived for the colonies to adopt the laſt meaſure for our common good and ſafety, and that the ſooner they declare themſelves ſeparate from, and independent of the crown and parliament of Great-Britain, the ſooner they will be able to make effectual oppoſition, and eſtabliſh their liberties on a firm and permanent baſis. We therefore moſt earneſtly inſtruct and charge you to move for, without loſs of time, and endeavour to obtain poſitive inſtructions from the convention of Maryland to their delegates in congreſs, immediately to join the other colonies in declaring, that the United Colonies no longer owe allegiance to, nor are they dependent upon, the crown or parliament of Great-Britain, or any other power on earth, but are, for time to come, free and independent ſtates; provided that the power of forming government, and regulating the internal concerns of each colony, be left to their reſpective legiſlatures; and that the laid delegates give the aſſent of this province to any further confederation of the colonies for the ſupport of their union, and for forming ſuch foreign commercial connexions as may be requiſite and neceſſary for our common good and ſafety. And as the preſent government under the king cannot longer exiſt with ſafety to the freemen of this province, we are of opinion a new form of government, agreeable to the late recommendation of the honourably continental congreſs to all the United Colonies, ought immediately to be adopted.

To the honourable MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Eſq; JAMES LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE, EDWARD LLOYD, NICHOLAS THOMAS, and POLLARD EDMONSON, Eſqrs. repreſentatives for TALBOT county, in convention now ſitting.

The ADDRESS of part of the FREEMEN of the ſaid county.

GENTLEMEN,

THE vaſt importance of the diſpute now ſubſiſting between Great Britain and the North-American colonies, the fatal conſequences that muſt attend the miſmanagement of that diſpute, and the effects they muſt inevitably have on us in common with the neighbouring governments, ſufficiently juſtify us your conſtituents in laying our ſentiments before you, on the preſent occaſion, reſpecting the meaſures taken for carrying into execution the plan propoſed for the preſervation of our liberties, now in the moſt imminent danger.

We therefore, in virtue of that right which the conſtituent hath in his repreſentative, or deputy, take leave to expreſs to you our great concern and ſorrow, that we cannot approve the meaſures purſued in the laſt ſeſſion of convention. We have ſeen, with grief and aſtoniſhment, the convention of Maryland, in matters of the utmoſt importance, reſolving in direct oppoſition to the honourable congreſs. We have alſo ſeen it, in our opinion, profuſely laviſhing the public money, at a time when the conſtituents are labouring under every burthen which imagination can conceive, without money, without trade, or any poſſible means of procuring either. We likewiſe view its inſtructions to our delegates in congreſs, of the 18th of January and 21ſt of May laſt, as tending, in direct terms, to a breach of that confidential harmony ſo happily, before that, ſubſiſting among the United Colonies, and which we, in common with every coloniſt embarked in the cauſe of liberty, beheld as our greateſt glory, and the only ſource of protection. Its reſolves, in oppoſition to thoſe in congreſs of the 15th of May, declaring it to be neceſſary that the exerciſe of any kind of authority under the crown of Great-Britain ſhould be totally ſuppreſſed, and all the powers of government exerted under the authority of the people, we conceive to be a direct breach of the continental union, and to have a tendency to introduce anarchy and confuſion, by ſetting up and continuing two ſeparate and oppoſite authorities at the ſame time binding on the good people of this province. We look upon the rule of voting in convention by counties to be dangerous, as productive of influence which may be uſed to rule the determinations and reſolves of the houſe by a minority of twenty-ſeven members, who, in ſuch caſe, may have all the effects of a majority. We conſider our preſent mode of government by conventions and committees as inſufficient to accompliſh the end for which it was inſtituted; and dangerous, ſo far as it unites the legiſlative and executive powers in nearly the ſame perſons, which is the true definition of tyranny. We would by no means inſinuate, that the convention hath any intention of uſing its power to that purpoſe, and hope we ſhall not be ſo underſtood by you; but it is proper to guard againſt probable evil, where the liberties of mankind are concerned. We have ſeen, with ſorrow of heart, the king of Great-Britain inexorably determined upon the ruin of our liberties. We view the parliament as loſt to all ſenſe of juſtice and humanity, attached to, and governed by, a corrupt and wicked miniſtry, who are intending the ruin of their infatuated maſter, or determined to make his government abſolute, and erect a tyranny over his dominions, of which they expect to have the direction. We have ſeen all the petitions of the congreſs treated with contempt; an act of parliament, declaring our reſiſtance againſt actual violence to be rebellion; excluding us from the protection of the crown, and compelling ſuch of the coloniſts as ſhall be taken priſoners to fight againſt their country; the treaties of the king of Great-Britain with the European princes, for engaging foreign mercenaries to aid the forces of that kingdom in their attempts to ſubdue the Americans, or cut their throats; and by his anſwer to the addreſs of the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of London, he manifeſts ſuch a determined reſolution to effect the deſtruction of American freedom, that we cannot entertain the moſt diſtant expectations of a reconciliation on reaſonable terms. This being the caſe, we look on all lukewarm backwardneſs in the convention of this province, in the common cauſe of America, and every oppoſition to the reſolves of congreſs calculated for our ſafety and general ſecurity (as we are convinced that of the 15th of May abovementioned was) to be of the moſt dangerous tendency, and that it will naturally induce the miniſtry to look on this province as friendly to their meaſures, and, in all probability, bring their forces among us, by which we ſhall have our country made the ſeat of war, and experience all its horrors. Poſſeſſed with theſe ſentiments, we in the moſt earneſt terms requeſt your attention to the following inſtructions, viz.

First. That you uſe your utmoſt influence that the inſtructions given by Convention to our delegates in Congreſs beforementioned be reſcinded, and that they may be inſtructed by the preſent Convention to concur and co-operate with the delegates of the other United Colonies, in forming ſuch further compacts between the ſaid colonies, concluding ſuch treaties with foreign kingdoms, and in adopting ſuch other meaſures as ſhall be judged neceſſary for promoting the liberty, ſafety and intereſt of America, and defeating the ſchemes and machinations of our enemies, the king, parliament and miniſtry of Great-Britain.

Second. That you uſe the ſame influence to induce the Convention to comply with the reſolves of Congreſs of the 15th of May laſt, in exerting all the powers of government under the authority of the people of this province, by forming a conſtitution adequate to that purpoſe; and in caſe the preſent Convention ſhall decline that taſk, that you promote and procure a reſolve to determine their power at the end of the preſent ſeſſion, and order an election for members to compoſe a new Convention, for the purpoſe of forming ſuch conſtitution.

Third. That you uſe your endeavours to procure a different mode of voting in Convention, that the method may be by the members each voting ſeparately, as was formerly practiſed in aſſembly; that in all queſtions of importance, when the houſe divides, the yeas and nays be conſtantly taken and publiſhed with the proceedings, for the information of the public reſpecting the behaviour of their repreſentatives.

Fourth. That you uſe your utmoſt endeavours to put a ſtop to the executing the writs of election we underſtand are already iſſued in the name of the proprietary or by the authority of the king of Great-Britain, as no fair elections can be held, or the people legally repreſented, under the preſent circumſtances of this province, for reaſons too obvious to require being mentioned.

Fifth. That you uſe your endeavours and influence to have the members of the Council of Safety appointed from among the delegates in Convention only, they being perſons duly elected by the people, who are the ſource of all power.

Sixth. That you endeavour to procure a reſolve of Convention to prevent any undue influence being uſed at elections by military officers over the men they command, a danger which may poſſibly ariſe from the attachment natural enough in the ſoldier to his commander.

Seventh. That you move for and promote a reaſonable regulation to enable debtors to pay off their creditors in country produce eſpecially in the caſe of rents and intereſt due on obligations or otherwiſe, and alſo the public levies now due.

Eighth. That you endeavour to procure a reſolve of Convention to exclude all officers civil or military from holding ſeats in Convention or Congreſs, after appointment to each office, until reelected; and to exclude all members of Congreſs from a ſeat in the Convention.

Ninth. That you endeavour to reduce the enormous allowance of £15 per week, given to each of our delegates in Congreſs, this being a time when ſtrict œconomy is neceſſary; and alſo reduce the allowance of members in Convention to a ſum adequate to their neceſſary expence, as we are perſuaded you will agree with us in opinion that the preſent ſtate of this province will by no means admit of profuſion.

In CONVENTION, June 25, 1776.

RESOLVED *unanimouſly*, That this province will furniſh 3405 of its militia to form a flying camp, and to act with the militia of Pennſylvania and the Delaware government, in the middle department, that is to ſay, from this province to New-York, incluſive, according to the requeſt of the Congreſs in their reſolutions of the third day of this inſtant, June.

That for that purpoſe four battalions be inſtantly raiſed, each of them to conſiſt of nine companies, and each company to conſiſt of ninety men, to wit. one captain, two lieutenants, one enſign, four ſergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ſeventy-ſix privates; each of the ſaid battalions to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, and one major, and that to each battalion there be allowed a quarter-maſter, an adjutant, a ſurgeon, and two aſſiſtants; and that over and above the ſaid battalions, there be alſo inſtantly raiſed one other company, to conſiſt of one captain, three lieutenants, four ſergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ninety-ſix privates; and that the whole of the ſaid militia ſo to be raiſed, be commanded by a brigadier-general, who ſhall have the appointment of a brigade-major.

That warrants immediately iſſue to ſuch perſons as ſhall be appointed by this Convention to take the enrollments of the ſaid non commiſſioned officers and privates, which enrollments ſhall be made up of thoſe who ſhall voluntarily offer themſelves for the ſaid ſervice, and ſubſcribe an enrollment in the following words, to wit. We the ſubſcribers do hereby enroll ourſelves to ſerve as militia of Maryland in the middle department, that is to ſay, from this province to New-York, incluſive, until the firſt day of December next, unleſs ſooner diſcharged by the honourable Congreſs, according to the reſolutions of the Convention of Maryland, held at Annapolis the 21ſt day of June, 1776.

That the ſaid warrants be in the following form, to wit.

By the Convention of Maryland, June 25, 1776.

YOU are empowered to enroll effective freemen, to act as militia of this province in the middle department, according to the reſolutions of this Convention, and the form of enrollment herewith delivered to you; on your doing which, and their paſſing as effective, you are to be entitled to, and ſhall receive a commiſſion as captain, or firſt or ſecond lieutenant or enſign, as the caſe may be, of a company to be compoſed partly of thoſe you enroll.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Preſident.

To ——— of ——— county.

That thirty men be expreſſed in the warrant to a captain, twenty men in the warrant to each of the lieutenants, and ſixteen men in the warrant to the enſign of the ſaid companies.

That all enrollments be returned to the Convention or Council of Safety, as ſoon as filled up, or if not compleated by the 20th day of July at fartheſt, and if any of thoſe to whom warrants ſhall be directed cannot enroll the full number of effective freemen by that day, the Convention if ſitting will, or the Council of Safety in the receſs of Convention ſhall, iſſue a commiſſion to the perſon to whom the warrant ſhall have been directed, or to any other perſon as may beſt promote and forward the ſervice, but a commiſſion ſhall iſſue of courſe in every caſe where the full number ſhall be enrolled according to the warrant.

That none of the ſaid militia be compelled to ſerve out of the ſaid limits, or beyond the ſaid firſt day of December next, and during the time of their ſervice ſhall be under the command of the general officer, as ſuch, who ſhall be appointed by the Congreſs, and ſhall be ſubject and liable to the rules and regulations already provided by this Convention for the government of the militia when called into actual ſervice, and no other.

That as camp-kettles cannot be had, the ſaid militia be ſupplied with 850 ſmall iron pots or kettles, with bales, at the expence of this province, and that they be alſo furniſhed with cartouch-boxes, and as far as may be with tents.

That ſuch of the militia who have effective firelocks, uſe the ſame, that ſuch of them as have firelocks not effective, but that may be made ſo by ſmall repairs, have ſuch repairs done at the expence of this province, and uſe their own firelocks, and thoſe who have not ſufficient firelocks be furniſhed by the Council of Safety out of the arms now belonging to, or that ſhall be procured for the uſe of the public, and by the committees of obſervation in the reſpective county where they inliſt, out of the arms in their keeping, delivered in by, or taken from thoſe who have not ſubſcribed the aſſociation, or have not enrolled in the militia, ſo far as ſuch arms will extend, and the deficiency ſhall be made up by borrowing the firelocks of ſuch of the militia as will, and on the public faith, which is hereby pledged to return the ſame in the like order as received, or in caſe of loſs, the value thereof. And all firelocks ſo to be lent ſhall be valued by two freeholders, and a certificate given to the owner by the officer who enrolled the men ſupplied therewith, of the receipt and value of the ſame arms.

That all arms ſo furniſhed by the Council of Safety, or committees of obſervation, or lent as aforeſaid, as well as the tents, cartouch boxes, kettles, and pots, ſhall be carefully preſerved and returned; and if any ſhall not be returned from groſs negligence, the captain of the company where ſuch negligence ſhall be ſuffered, ſhall be anſwerable to the public for the loſs, and the immediate delinquent to the captain.

That the Council of Safety, in the receſs of Convention, direct the formation of the companies in battalions, and appoint what companies ſhall compoſe ſuch battalions.

That for the aſcertaining the rank of the captains, lieutenants, and enſigns of the ſaid companies, commiſſions ſhall iſſue by the Convention, or Council of Safety, and be dated of the day ſuch captain, lieutenant, or enſign, ſhall have enrolled the number of men expreſſed in his warrant; and rank as between officers of equal degree, ſhall take place according to ſuch date, but where there ſhall be enrollments compleated on the ſame day by officers of the ſame degree, the rank ſhall be ſettled by ballot between ſuch officers, and the commiſſions marked accordingly.

That on the iſſuing of the warrants or granting of commiſſions as aforeſaid, there be paid by the treaſurer of the ſhore where ſuch perſon reſides, on producing an order from the Council of Safety, the ſum of £.69 : 15 : 0 to each captain, £.46 : 10 : 0 to each lieutenant, and £.37 : 5 : 0 to every enſign, out of the bills of credit; to be advanced to the non-commiſſioned officers and privates in part of their wages, at the diſcretion of the officer, who ſhall be anſwerable for, and accountable to this province for the money advanced as aforeſaid.

That as ſome of the militia may be under contracts to perform particular ſervices by the year, month, or other time, any ſuch who ſhall enroll as aforeſaid, ſhall be entitled to their wages for the time they ſhall have continued in the ſervice of their employer, in conſequence of ſuch contract, in proportion to the time they ſhall have ſerved.

That the ſeveral companies ſhall be muſtered and paſſed by ſome one of the field officers of the county where ſuch company ſhall be raiſed, and the captain ſhall return two copies of his muſter-roll, certified by the field officer who muſters the men, to the Council of Safety, who ſhall tranſmit one of the copies to the Congreſs.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

In CONVENTION, 29 June, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the bills of credit iſſued by the Congreſs and the Conventions of this province, be received by the commiſſioners of the loan office in payment of any intereſt due to the ſaid office.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

THERE never was a time in which it was more neceſſary for you to enquire into the conduct of your repreſentatives. If on examination and a ſtrict ſcrutiny you approve, let your honour and confidence be given to your preſent delegates. If you find good cauſe to ſuſpect their political principles or probity, diſcard, without heſitation, ſuch men from your ſervice, with contempt, diſgrace and infamy. If you diſcover a want of judgment and fortitude if their conduct is weak, timid and irreſolute, diſmiſs them with ſilence, as unfit to adviſe or govern in the preſent ſtate of your affairs, which demands wiſdom to plan and firmneſs to execute. If only an error in judgment can be imputed to them, correct it by your advice and inſtructions.

The December Convention appointed a committee * to prepare a draught of inſtructions for the deputies in Congreſs, who reported the following as *unanimouſly* agreed to by them.

In CONVENTION.

To the hon. M. Tilghman, Eſq; T. Johnſon, jun. S. Chaſe, Robert Goldſborough, W. Paca, T. Stone, Robert Alexander, and John Rogers, Eſquires.

The Convention taking into their moſt ſerious conſideration, the preſent ſtate of the unhappy diſpute between Great-Britain and the united colonies, think it proper to deliver you their ſentiments, and to inſtruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in congreſs as repreſentatives of this province.

The experience we and our anceſtors have had of the mildneſs and equity of the Engliſh government under which we have grown up to, and enjoyed a ſtate of felicity not exceeded by any people we know of, until the grounds of the preſent controverſy were laid by the miniſtry and parliament of Great-Britain, has moſt ſtrongly endeared to us that conſtitution from whence theſe bleſſings have been derived, and makes us ardently wiſh for a reconciliation with the mother country, upon terms that may inſure to theſe colonies an equal and permanent freedom. To this conſtitution we are attached not only by habit, but by principle, being in our judgments perſuaded, it is of all known ſyſtems, beſt calculated to ſecure the liberty of the ſubject, to guard againſt deſpotiſm on the one hand, and licentiouſneſs on the other.

Impreſſed with theſe ſentiments, we warmly recommend to you to keep conſtantly in your view the avowed end and purpoſe for which theſe colonies originally aſſociated—the redreſs of American grievances, and ſecuring the rights of the coloniſts.

The remarkable ſucceſs which has attended the American arms afford ſo happy an opportunity of convincing to our ſovereign, to our brethren of Great-Britain, and to the world, the ſincerity of our frequent declarations of our ſtrong deſire of reconciliation, that as repreſentatives of this province, we think it our duty to inſtruct you, *to take the firſt opportunity to move for in Congreſs, and uſe your utmoſt endeavours to have prepared and tranſmitted, an humble petition to the throne*, diſavowing in the moſt ſolemn manner, all deſign in theſe colonies of independence, and declaring in explicit terms, that they have nothing more in view than the eſtabliſhment of their juſt rights, expreſſing the ardent deſire to be reſtored to the confidence of their ſovereign, and to that happy connection which ſubſiſted between them and the parent ſtate before their preſent troubles began, and praying the royal interpoſition with parliament for the ſpeedy reſtoration of peace and tranquility to the divided empire. As upon the obtention of theſe great objects we ſhall think it our greateſt happineſs to be firmly united to Great-Britain *in a conſtitutional dependence upon the imperial crown and parliament thereof*, we think proper to inſtruct you, that ſhould any propoſition be happily made by the crown or parliament that may lead to, or lay a rational and probable ground for reconciliation, you uſe your utmoſt endeavours to cultivate and improve it into a happy ſettlement and laſting amity; taking care to ſecure the united colonies againſt the exerciſe of the right aſſumed by parliament to tax America, and to alter and change the charters and conſtitutions of the ſaid colonies, which cannot be admitted without deſtroying the eſſential ſecurity of the lives, liberties and properties of the coloniſts.

We further inſtruct you, that you do not, *without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention* of this province, aſſent to any propoſition to declare theſe colonies independent of the crown of Great-Britain; nor to any propoſition for making or entering into alliance with any foreign power; nor to any union or confederation of theſe colonies which may neceſſarily lead to a ſeparation from the mother country. Deſirous as we are of peace with Great Britain upon ſafe and honourable terms, we wiſh you nevertheleſs, and inſtruct you to join with the other colonies in ſuch military operations as you ſhall judge proper and neceſſary for the common defence until ſuch a peace can be happily obtained. At the ſame time that we aſſure you we have an entire confidence in your abilities and integrity in the diſcharge of the great truſt repoſed in you, we muſt obſerve to you as our opinion, that in the relation of conſtituent and repreſentative, one principal ſecurity of the former is the right he holds to be fully informed of the conduct of the latter. We can conceive no caſe to exiſt in which it would be of more importance to exerciſe this right than the preſent, nor any in which we can ſuppoſe the repreſentative would more willingly acquieſce in the exerciſe of it; we therefore inſtruct you, that you from time to time, as occaſions may offer, lay before the Convention of this province the proceedings and the part you take in the general deliberations of the Congreſs, except ſuch military operations as may be judged neceſſary to be kept ſecret.

To determine the propriety of this province urging the Congreſs to petition the king of Great-Britain in *January laſt*, it may be proper to obſerve, that the petition propoſed was, in ſubſtance, and almoſt in words, the ſame with the one ſent by the Congreſs, and then lying before the throne. The proclamation declaring all the colonies in rebellion, was iſſued a few days after the arrival and knowledge of our petition, and was publiſhed in all the news-papers. It was alſo well known that the parliament was called and expected to meet in October. The petition propoſed would not probably arrive in England before the month of March, before which time the meaſures of parliament muſt have been taken, and would not be in the leaſt influenced by the petition. To ſend a ſecond petition of the ſame nature, before a knowledge of the fate of the firſt, could anſwer no other purpoſe but to diſcover an unreaſonable fondneſs for peace, and encourage a wicked and implacable tyrant in the purſuit of his diabolical ſchemes. This part of the inſtructions were agreed to by the Convention, and ſtruck out, on the next day, after the receipt of the king's ſpeech.

The inſtruction not to aſſent to any propoſition of independency, for a foreign alliance, nor to any union of the colonies, which might neceſſarily lead to a ſeparation, without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention, might have produced the moſt fatal conſequences to all America. Caſes might have happened in which it would have been expedient to have formed foreign alliances without any delay: if they could not be entered into without the conſent of Maryland, tho' a very great majority of the colonies ſhould eſteem ſuch meaſure wiſe and abſolutely neceſſary, the opportunity of ſaving America might have been loſt. The Congreſs alone could have the beſt intelligence and comprehenſive view of our affairs, and would be the moſt capable judges when this ſtep ought to be taken. Intereſt, policy and neceſſity would induce this province not to ſeparate from her ſiſter colonies. Why then diſcover a diſtruſt and want of confidence in the Congreſs, that is a majority of the colonies? Why diſcloſe to the world that this province would not be bound to unite with a majority of them?

An AMERICAN.

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* James Holyday, Charles Carroll, barriſter, James Tilghman, Cadwallader Scott, and Benjamin Rumſey, Eſquires.

town. Gilbert Forbes, gunſmith, in the Broadway, was taken between two and three o'clock on Saturday morning, and carried before our provincial congreſs, who were then ſitting, but refuſing to make any diſcovery, he was ſent to gaol and put in irons. Young Mr. Livingſton went to ſee him early in the morning, told him he was ſorry to find he had been concerned, and, as his time was very ſhort, not having above three days to live, adviſed him to prepare himſelf. This had the deſired effect; he aſked to be carried before the congreſs again, and he would diſcover all he knew. Several have been ſince taken, between twenty and thirty, among them our mayor, who are all now under confinement. It is ſaid their party conſiſted of about five hundred.

"I have juſt heard the mayor has confeſſed bringing money from Tryon, to pay for rifle guns that Forbes had made. Burgoyne is arrived at Quebec with his fleet."

WILLIAMSBURG, *June* 14.

This day arrived in town, from Georgia, on his way to the General Congreſs, George Walton, Eſq; one of the delegates from that province; alſo lieutenants Walton and Pannell, on the recruiting ſervice. By theſe gentlemen we learn, that the Convention of Georgia have authoriſed their delegates in Congreſs to concur in any ſcheme which may be propoſed for the benefit of the United Colonies, even to a total ſeparation from Great-Britain; and that, in the mean while, a form of government had been eſtabliſhed in the province.

The following gentlemen are choſen officers for the ſix companies of light horſe directed to be raiſed by the hon. general convention, viz. Captains, Theodorick Bland, jun. Benjamin Temple, John Jameſon, Lewelling Jones, Henry Lee, jun. and John Nelſon, Eſqrs. Lieutenants, Richard Call, Cuthbert Harriſon, William Penn, Spotſwood Dandridge, John Belfield, and Addiſon Lewis, Eſqrs. Cornets, John Henry, James Jones, William Lindſay, John Watts, Henry Peyton, and Henry Clements, Eſqrs.

Two maſters of veſſels came to town this week, who were lately taken by the miniſterial cruiſers, and made their eſcape. They report, that lord Dunmore's whole army is now reduced to 40 regular ſoldiers, and 200 of the black fuſileers, 175 of which laſt corps died on their paſſage from Norfolk to Gwyn's iſland; and that Andrew Sprowle, Eſq; of Goſport, three days after his landing, departed this life, great part of which he ſpent in Virginia, much to his emolument, having amaſſed, by trade, a very capital fortune.

A Spaniſh brig from the Havannah, bound to Philadelphia, with 12,800 dollars on board, is taken off the capes of Delaware by the Liverpool frigate.

June 22. Laſt Monday an expreſs arrived at headquarters from gen. Lee, who left his excellency the 6th inſtant, at Little-river, on the road to Charleſtown, with three battalions of the North-Carolina troops, marching with all poſſible expedition to the aſſiſtance of that place; general Clinton, with upwards of 50 ſail of men of war and tranſports, having appeared off their bar the Tueſday before, where they caſt anchor. Two other North-Carolina regiments, and col. Muhlenburg's Virginia battalion, were likewiſe on their march for Charleſtown; with whoſe aſſiſtance it is not doubted but our brethren in South Carolina will be able to defeat any attempts of their enemies, and, when under the conduct of ſo able and experienced a commander, give them that chaſtiſement which they are ſo richly entitled to.

By the ſame expreſs we learn that a ſloop arrived at Charleſtown the 25th ult. from St. Euſtatia, with 20,000 wt. of gunpowder; the maſter of which informed, that a large veſſel had arrived at that iſland from Holland, deep loaded with arms and ammunition. He alſo ſaid, that all the French ports in the Weſt-Indies were now open to us, and that their ſhips of war have received orders to protect our veſſels in and out of their harbours; that the French are fortifying Dunkirk, which produced a remonſtrance from the Britiſh court, but without effect.

Laſt Thurſday capt. Barron took, and brought up to Jameſtown, a tranſport ſhip with 220 Highlanders on board, being part of Frazer's battalion, moſtly recruits, and part of the 42d regiment, or royal highland watch. They were landed yeſterday morning, and arrived here under a guard the ſame day. The tranſport had 16 wooden guns mounted; She was made prize of ſome little time before by the Congreſs privateer (as was alſo another tranſport that was in company with her) who took their officers from them, their arms and ammunition, and put on board ten hands to carry her into port; but being ſeparated from the Congreſs in a gale of wind, the men overpowered thoſe who had charge of the veſſel, and were ſteering in ſearch of lord Dunmore. Upon ſight of capt. Barron's veſſel they diſpatched a boat to him, with a ſerjeant, one private, and one of the men who were put on board by the Congreſs, to make inquiry; the latter (finding a convenient opportunity) informed capt. Barron of their ſituation; upon which he boarded her and took poſſeſſion. They have been out about 7 weeks from Greenock, and ſailed in company with a large fleet. The above men, it is ſaid, are all that were contained in both tranſports; the officers, arms, and ammunition were put on board the other.

ANNAPOLIS, July 4.

THE Convention of this colony have reſolved, that a new Convention be elected for the expreſs purpoſe of forming a new government, *by the authority of the people only*, and enacting and ordering all things for the preſervation, ſafety and general weal of this colony; and have directed four repreſentatives to be choſen for the upper, middle, and lower diſtrict of Frederick county, two for the city of Annapolis, two for Baltimore town, and four for each of the other counties of this colony; and have appointed Thurſday the firſt day of Auguſt next for the elections in the counties, and Monday the fifth day of Auguſt for the elections in Baltimore town and the city of Annapolis.—All freemen (except thoſe publiſhed as enemies) above twenty-one years of age, being freeholders of not leſs than 50 acres of land, or having viſible property in the colony to the value of 40 pounds ſterling at the leaſt, and *no others*, are to be admitted to vote for members for the counties and Baltimore town: all freemen, above twenty-one years of age, owning a whole lot of land in the city of Annapolis, or having viſible eſtate of 20 pounds ſterling at the leaſt, within the province, or having ſerved five years to any trade within the city and being a houſekeeper, and *no others*, are to be admitted to vote for members for the city of Annapolis: provided ſuch perſon ſhall have reſided in the county, diſtrict, city or town, where he ſhall offer to vote, one whole year next preceding the election.—The elections are to be made viva voce, and held for all the counties (except Frederick, Charles and Cæcil) at places of holding the county courts: the elections for the diſtricts of Frederick county are to be held at the the places appointed by the Convention in July laſt: the election for Charles county at the houſe of Bennett Hanſon Clements: the election for Cæcil county at the Head of Elk river.—Any perſon qualified to vote (except the regular officers and ſoldiers) may be elected, if above twenty-one years of age and ſhall have reſided in the colony one whole year preceding the election.—No perſon is to come armed to the election, nor any muſter to be made on the day of the election, nor can any battalion, or company of militia, or any ten men thereof give in their votes immediately ſucceeding each other, if any other voter, who offers to vote, objects thereto. Judges of the election are appointed for each county, the city of Annapolis and Baltimore town: the land on the outh and weſt ſides of the lines lately run between this colony and Pennſylvania are declared to be taken and accepted as within the juriſdiction of Maryland, and as part of the counties thereof adjoining thereto, and the inhabitants are equally to ſhare in all the burthens, privileges, and benefits with others the people of this colony.

The intended convention is to meet at the city of Annapolis, on Monday the 12th day of Auguſt next, and is not to continue beyond the firſt day of December next.

We are informed that the following are the INSTRUCTIONS *drawn up and ſigned by a great number of the inhabitants of* CHARLES *county,*

To JOSIAS HAWKINS, THOMAS STONE, ROBERT T. HOOE, JOSEPH H. HARRISON, and WILLIAM HARRISON, Eſqrs.

WE the ſubſcribers, freemen of Charles county, in the province of Maryland, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the preſent ſtate of the unhappy diſpute between Great-Britain and the United Colonies, and the very great diſtreſs and hardſhips they have brought upon us thereby, think proper to deliver you our ſentiments, and to inſtruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in the next convention, as repreſentatives of this county. Reaſons for the mode of voting and determining queſtions by a majority of counties have not appeared to us to exiſt ſince the laſt general election; therefore we charge and inſtruct you to move for and endeavour to obtain a regulation for voting individually, and determining queſtions by a majority of members, and not of counties, in future. And as we know we have a right to hear, or be informed what is tranſacted in convention, we inſtruct you to move for and endeavour to obtain a reſolve for the doors of the houſe to be kept open in future, and that, on all queſtions propoſed and ſeconded, the yeas and nays be taken, and, together with every other part of your proceedings, publiſhed, except ſuch only as may relate to military operations queſtions on which ought to be debated with the doors ſhut, and the determinations thereon kept ſecret.

The experience we have had of the cruelty and injuſtice of the Britiſh government, under which we have too long borne oppreſſion and wrongs, and notwithſtanding every peaceable endeavour of the United Colonies to get redreſs of grievances, by decent, dutiful, and ſincere petitions and repreſentations to the king and parliament, giving every aſſurance of our affection and loyalty, and praying for no more than peace, liberty, and ſafety, under the Britiſh government, yet have we received nothing but an increaſe of inſult and injury, by all the colonies being declared in actual rebellion; ſavages hired to take up arms againſt us; ſlaves proclaimed free, enticed away, trained and armed againſt their lawful maſters; our towns plundered, burnt, and deſtroyed; our veſſels and property ſeized on the ſeas, made free plunder to the captors, and our ſeamen forced to take arms againſt ourſelves; our friends and countrymen, when captivated, confined in dungeons, and, as if criminals, chained down to the earth; our eſtates confiſcated, and our men, women, and children, robbed and murdered. And as at this time inſtead of commiſſioners to negociate a peace, as we have been led to believe, were coming out, a formidable fleet of Britiſh ſhips, with a numerous army of foreign ſoldiers, in Britiſh pay, are daily expected on our coaſt to force us to yield the property we have honeſtly acquired, and fairly own, and drudge out the remainder of our days in miſery and wretchedneſs, leaving us nothing better to bequeath to poſterity than poverty and ſlavery. We muſt, for theſe reaſons, declare, that our affection for the people, and allegiance to the crown of Great-Britain, ſo readily and truly acknowledged till of late, is forfeited on their part. And as we are convinced that nothing virtuous, humane, generous, or juſt, can be expected from the Britiſh king, or nation, and that they will exert themſelves to reduce us to a ſtate of ſlavery, by every effort and artifice in their power, we are of opinion that the time is fully arrived for the colonies to adopt the laſt meaſure for our common good and ſafety, and that the ſooner they declare themſelves ſeparate from, and independent of the crown and parliament of Great-Britain, the ſooner they will be able to make effectual oppoſition, and eſtabliſh their liberties on a firm and permanent baſis. We therefore moſt earneſtly inſtruct and charge you to move for, without loſs of time, and endeavour to obtain poſitive inſtructions from the convention of Maryland to their delegates in congreſs, immediately to join the other colonies in declaring, that the United Colonies no longer owe allegiance to, nor are they dependent upon, the crown or parliament of Great-Britain, or any other power on earth, but are, for time to come, free and independent ſtates; provided that the power of forming government, and regulating the internal concerns of each colony, be left to their reſpective legiſlatures; and that the ſaid delegates give the aſſent of this province to any further confederation of the colonies for the ſupport of their union, and for forming ſuch foreign commercial connexions as may be requiſite and neceſſary for our common good and ſafety. And as the preſent government under the king cannot longer exiſt with ſafety to the freemen of this province, we are of opinion a new form of government, agreeable to the late recommendation of the honourable continental congreſs to all the United Colonies, ought immediately to be adopted.

To the honourable MATTHEW THOMAN, Eſq; JAMES LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE, EDWARD LLOYD, NICHOLAS THOMAS, and POLLARD EDMONSON, Eſqrs. repreſentatives for TALBOT county, in convention now ſitting.

The ADDRESS of part of the FREEMEN of the ſaid county.

GENTLEMEN,

THE vaſt importance of the diſpute now ſubſiſting between Great Britain and the North-American colonies, the fatal conſequences that muſt attend the miſmanagement of that diſpute, and the effects they muſt inevitably have on us in common with the neighbouring governments, ſufficiently juſtify us your conſtituents in laying our ſentiments before you, on the preſent occaſion, reſpecting the meaſures taken for carrying into execution the plan propoſed for the preſervation of our liberties, now in the moſt imminent danger.

We therefore, in virtue of that right which the conſtituent hath in his repreſentative, or deputy, take leave to expreſs to you our great concern and ſorrow, that we cannot approve the meaſures purſued in the laſt ſeſſion of convention. We have ſeen, with grief and aſtoniſhment, the convention of Maryland, in matters of the utmoſt importance, reſolving in direct oppoſition to the honourable congreſs. We have alſo ſeen it, in our opinion, profuſely laviſhing the public money, at a time when the conſtituents are labouring under every burthen which imagination can conceive, without money, without trade, or any poſſible means of procuring either. We likewiſe view its inſtructions to our delegates in congreſs, of the 18th of January and 21ſt of May laſt, as tending, in direct terms, to a breach of that confidential harmony ſo happily, before that, ſubſiſting among the United Colonies, and which we, in common with every coloniſt embarked in the cauſe of liberty, beheld as our greateſt glory, and the only ſource of protection. Its reſolves, in oppoſition to thoſe in congreſs of the 15th of May, declaring it to be neceſſary that the exerciſe of any kind of authority under the crown of Great-Britain ſhould be totally ſuppreſſed, and all the powers of government exerted under the authority of the people, we conceive to be a direct breach of the continental union, and to have a tendency to introduce anarchy and confuſion, by ſetting up and continuing two ſeparate and oppoſite authorities at the ſame time binding on the good people of this province. We look upon the rule of voting in convention by counties to be dangerous, as productive of influence which may be uſed to rule the determinations and reſolves of the houſe by a minority of twenty-ſeven members, who, in ſuch caſe, may have all the effects of a majority. We conſider our preſent mode of government by conventions and committees as inſufficient to accompliſh the end for which it was inſtituted; and dangerous, ſo far as it unites the legiſlative and executive powers in nearly the ſame perſons, which is the true definition of tyranny. We would by no means inſinuate, that the convention hath any intention of uſing its power to that purpoſe, and hope we ſhall not be ſo underſtood by you; but it is proper to guard againſt probable evil, where the liberties of mankind are concerned. We have ſeen, with ſorrow of heart, the king of Great-Britain inexorably determined upon the ruin of our liberties. We view the parliament as loſt to all ſenſe of juſtice and humanity, attached to, and governed by, a corrupt and wicked miniſtry, who are intending the ruin of their infatuated maſter, or determined to make his government abſolute, and erect a tyranny over his dominions, of which they expect to have the direction. We have ſeen all the petitions of the congreſs treated with contempt; an act of parliament, declaring our reſiſtance againſt actual violence to be rebellion; excluding us from the protection of the crown, and compelling ſuch of the coloniſts as ſhall be taken priſoners to fight againſt their country; the treaties of the king of Great-Britain with the European princes, for engaging foreign mercenaries to aid the forces of that kingdom in their attempts to ſubdue the Americans, or cut their throats; and by his anſwer to the addreſs of the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of London, he manifeſts ſuch a determined reſolution to effect the deſtruction of American freedom, that we cannot entertain the moſt diſtant expectations of a reconciliation on reaſonable terms. This being the caſe, we look on all lukewarm backwardneſs in the convention of this province, in the common cauſe of America, and every oppoſition to the reſolves of congreſs calculated for our ſafety and general ſecurity (as we are convinced that of the 15th of May abovementioned was) to be of the moſt dangerous tendency, and that it will naturally induce the miniſtry to look on this province as friendly to their meaſures, and, in all probability, bring their forces among us, by which we ſhall have our country made the ſeat of war, and experience all its horrors. Poſſeſſed with theſe ſentiments, we in the moſt earneſt terms requeſt your attention to the following inſtructions, viz.

Firſt. That you uſe your utmoſt influence that the inſtructions given by Convention to our delegates in Congreſs beforementioned be reſcinded, and that they may be inſtructed by the preſent Convention to concur and co-operate with the delegates of the other United Colonies, in forming ſuch further compacts between the ſaid colonies, concluding ſuch treaties with foreign kingdoms, and in adopting ſuch other meaſures as ſhall be judged neceſſary for promoting the liberty, ſafety and intereſt of America, and defeating the ſchemes and machinations of our enemies, the king, parliament and miniſtry of Great-Britain.

Second. That you uſe the ſame influence to induce the Convention to comply with the reſolves of Congreſs of the 15th of May laſt, in exerting all the powers of government under the authority of the people of this province, by forming a conſtitution adequate to that purpoſe; and in caſe the preſent Convention ſhall decline that taſk, that you promote and procure a reſolve to determine their power at the end of the preſent ſeſſion, and order an election for members to compoſe a new Convention, for the purpoſe of forming ſuch conſtitution.

Third. That you uſe your endeavours to procure a different mode of voting in Convention, that the method may be by the members each voting ſeparately, as was formerly practiſed in aſſembly; that in all queſtions of importance, when the houſe divides, the yeas and nays be conſtantly taken and publiſhed with the proceedings, for the information of the public reſpecting the behaviour of their repreſentatives.

Fourth. That you uſe your utmoſt endeavours to put a ſtop to the executing the writs of election we underſtand are already iſſued in the name of the proprietary or by the authority of the king of Great-Britain, as no fair elections can be held, or the people legally repreſented, under the preſent circumſtances of this province, for reaſons too obvious to require being mentioned.

Fifth. That you uſe your endeavours and influence to have the members of the Council of Safety appointed from among the delegates in Convention only, they being perſons duly elected by the people, who are the ſource of all power.

Sixth. That you endeavour to procure a reſolve of Convention to prevent any undue influence being uſed at elections by military officers over the men they command, a danger which may poſſibly ariſe from the attachment natural enough in the ſoldier to his commander.

Seventh. That you move for and promote a reaſonable regulation to enable debtors to pay off their creditors in country produce eſpecially in the caſe of rents and intereſt due on obligations or otherwiſe, and alſo the public levies now due.

Eighth. That you endeavour to procure a reſolve of Convention to exclude all officers civil or military from holding ſeats in Convention or Congreſs, after appointment to each office, until reelected; and to exclude all members of Congreſs from a ſeat in the Convention.

Ninth. That you endeavour to reduce the enormous allowance of £.15 per week, given to each of our delegates in Congreſs, this being a time when ſtrict œconomy is neceſſary; and alſo reduce the allowance of members in Convention to a ſum adequate to their neceſſary expence, as we are perſuaded you will agree with us in opinion that the preſent ſtate of this province will by no means admit of profuſion.

In CONVENTION, June 25, 1776.

RESOLVED *unanimouſly*, That this province will furniſh 3405 of its militia to form a flying camp, and to act with the militia of Pennſylvania and the Delaware government, in the middle department, that is to ſay, from this province to New-York, inclusive, according to the requeſt of the Congreſs in their reſolutions of the third day of this inſtant, June.

That for that purpoſe four battalions be inſtantly raiſed, each of them to conſiſt of nine companies, and each company to conſiſt of ninety men, to wit. one captain, two lieutenants, one enſign, four ſergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ſeventy-ſix privates; each of the ſaid battalions to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, and one major, and that to each battalion there be allowed a quarter-maſter, an adjutant, a ſurgeon, and two aſſiſtants; and that over and above the ſaid battalions, there be alſo inſtantly raiſed one other company, to conſiſt of one captain, three lieutenants, four ſergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ninety-ſix privates; and the whole of the ſaid militia ſo to be raiſed, be commanded by a brigadier-general, who ſhall have the appointment of a brigade-major.

That warrants immediately iſſue to ſuch perſons as ſhall be appointed by this Convention to take the enrollments of the ſaid non commiſſioned officers and privates, which enrollments ſhall be made up of thoſe who ſhall voluntarily offer themſelves for the ſaid ſervice, and ſubſcribe an enrollment in the following words, to wit. We the ſubſcribers do hereby enroll ourſelves to ſerve as militia of Maryland in the middle department, that is to ſay, from this province to New-York, inclusive, until the firſt day of December next, unleſs ſooner diſcharged by the honourable Congreſs, according to the reſolutions of the Convention of Maryland, held at Annapolis the 21ſt day of June, 1776.

That the ſaid warrants be in the following form, to wit.

By the Convention of Maryland, June 25, 1776.

YOU are empowered to enroll effective freemen, to act as militia of this province in the middle department, according to the reſolutions of this Convention, and the form of enrollment herewith delivered to you; on your doing which, and their paſſing as effective, you are to be entitled to, and ſhall receive a commiſſion as captain, or firſt or ſecond lieutenant or enſign, as the caſe may be, of a company to be compoſed partly of thoſe you enroll.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Preſident.

To ——— of ——— county.

That thirty men be expreſſed in the warrant to a captain, twenty men in the warrant to each of the lieutenants, and ſixteen men in the warrant to the enſign of the ſaid companies.

That all enrollments be returned to the Convention or Council of Safety, as ſoon as filled up, or if not compleated by the 20th day of July at fartheſt, and if any of thoſe to whom warrants ſhall be directed cannot enroll the full number of effective freemen by that day, the Convention if ſitting will, or the Council of Safety in the receſs of Convention ſhall, iſſue a commiſſion to the perſon to whom the warrant ſhall have been directed, or to any other perſon as may beſt promote and forward the ſervice, but a commiſſion ſhall iſſue of courſe in every caſe where the full number ſhall be enrolled according to the warrant.

That none of the ſaid militia be compelled to ſerve out of the ſaid limits, or beyond the ſaid firſt day of December next, and during the time of their ſervice ſhall be under the command of the general officer, as ſuch, who ſhall be appointed by the Congreſs, and ſhall be ſubject and liable to the rules and regulations already provided by this Convention for the government of the militia when called into actual ſervice, and no other.

That as camp-kettles cannot be had, the ſaid militia be ſupplied with 850 ſmall iron pots or kettles, with bales, at the expence of this province, and that they be alſo furniſhed with cartouch-boxes, and as far as may be with tents.

That ſuch of the militia who have effective firelocks, uſe the ſame, that ſuch of them as have firelocks not effective, but that may be made ſo by ſmall repairs, have ſuch repairs done at the expence of this province, and uſe their own firelocks, and thoſe who have not ſufficient firelocks be furniſhed by the Council of Safety out of the arms now belonging to, or that ſhall be procured for the uſe of the public, and by the committees of obſervation in the reſpective county where they inliſt, out of the arms in their keeping, delivered in by, or taken from thoſe who have not ſubſcribed the aſſociation, or have not enrolled in the militia, ſo far as ſuch arms will extend, and the deficiency ſhall be made up by borrowing the firelocks of ſuch of the militia as will lend on the public faith, which is hereby pledged to return the ſame in the like order as received, or in caſe of loſs, the value thereof. And all firelocks ſo to be lent ſhall be valued by two freeholders, and a certificate given to the owner by the officer who enrolled the men ſupplied therewith, of the receipt and value of the ſame arms.

That all arms ſo furniſhed by the Council of Safety, or committees of obſervation, or lent as aforeſaid, as well as the tents, cartouch boxes, kettles, and pots, ſhall be carefully preſerved and returned; and if any ſhall not be returned from groſs negligence, the captain of the company where ſuch negligence ſhall be ſuffered, ſhall be anſwerable to the public for the loſs, and the immediate delinquent to the captain.

That the Council of Safety, in the receſs of Convention, direct the formation of the companies in battalions, and appoint what companies ſhall compoſe ſuch battalions.

That for the aſcertaining the rank of the captains, lieutenants, and enſigns of the ſaid companies, commiſſions ſhall iſſue by the Convention, or Council of Safety, and be dated of the day ſuch captain, lieutenant, or enſign, ſhall have enrolled the number of men expreſſed in his warrant; and rank as between officers of equal degree, ſhall take place according to ſuch date, but where there ſhall be enrollments compleated on the ſame day by officers of the ſame degree, the rank ſhall be ſettled by ballot between ſuch officers, and the commiſſions marked accordingly.

That on the iſſuing of the warrants or granting of commiſſions as aforeſaid, there be paid by the treaſurer of the ſhore where ſuch perſon reſides, on producing an order from the Council of Safety, the ſum of £.69:15:0 to each captain, £.46:10:0 to each lieutenant, and £.37:5:0 to every enſign, out of the bills of credit; to be advanced to the non-commiſſioned officers and privates in part of their wages, at the diſcretion of the officer, who ſhall be anſwerable for, and accountable to this province for the money advanced as aforeſaid.

That as ſome of the militia may be under contracts to perform particular ſervices by the year, month, or other time, any ſuch who ſhall enroll as aforeſaid, ſhall be entitled to their wages for the time they ſhall have continued in the ſervice of their employer, in conſequence of ſuch contract, in proportion to the time they ſhall have ſerved.

That the ſeveral companies ſhall be muſtered and paſſed by ſome one of the field officers of the county where ſuch company ſhall be raiſed, and the captain ſhall return two copies of his muſter-roll, certified by the field officer who muſters the men, to the Council of Safety, who ſhall tranſmit one of the copies to the Congreſs.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

In CONVENTION. 29 June, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the bills of credit iſſued by the Congreſs and the Conventions of this province, be received by the commiſſioners of the loan office in payment of any intereſt due to the ſaid office.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

THERE never was a time in which it was more neceſſary for you to enquire into the conduct of your repreſentatives. If on examination and a ſtrict ſcrutiny you approve, let your honour and confidence be given to your preſent delegates. If you find good cauſe to ſuſpect their political principles or probity, diſcard, without heſitation, ſuch men from your ſervice, with contempt, diſgrace and infamy. If you diſcover a want of judgment and fortitude; if their conduct is weak, timid and irreſolute, diſmiſs them with ſilence, as unfit to adviſe or govern in the preſent ſtate of your affairs, which demands wiſdom to plan and firmneſs to execute. If only an error in judgment can be imputed to them, correct it by your advice and inſtructions.

The December Convention appointed a committee[a] to prepare a draught of inſtructions for the deputies in Congreſs, who reported the following, as *unanimouſly* agreed to by them.

In CONVENTION.

To the hon. M. Tilghman, Eſq; T. Johnſon, jun. S. Chaſe, Robert Goldſborough, W. Paca, T. Stone, Robert Alexander, and John Rogers, Eſquires.

The Convention taking into their moſt ſerious conſideration, the preſent ſtate of the unhappy diſpute between Great-Britain and the united colonies, think it proper to deliver you their ſentiments, and to inſtruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in Congreſs as repreſentatives of this province.

The experience we and our anceſtors have had of the mildneſs and equity of the Engliſh government under which we have grown up to, and enjoyed a ſtate of felicity not exceeded by any people we know of, until the grounds of the preſent controverſy were laid by the miniſtry and parliament of Great-Britain, has moſt ſtrongly endeared to us that conſtitution from whence theſe bleſſings have been derived, and makes us ardently wiſh for a reconciliation with the mother country, upon terms that may inſure to theſe colonies an equal and permanent freedom. To this conſtitution we are attached not only by habit, but by principle, being in our judgments perſuaded, it is of all known ſyſtems, beſt calculated to ſecure the liberty of the ſubject, to guard againſt deſpotiſm on the one hand, and licentiouſneſs on the other.

Impreſſed with theſe ſentiments, we warmly recommend to you to keep conſtantly in your view the avowed end and purpoſe for which theſe colonies originally aſſociated—The redreſs of American grievances, and ſecuring the rights of the coloniſts.

The remarkable ſucceſs which has attended the American arms afford ſo happy an opportunity of convincing to our ſovereign, to our brethren of Great-Britain, and to the world, the ſincerity of our frequent declarations of our ſtrong deſire of reconciliation, that as repreſentatives of this province, we think it our duty to inſtruct you, *to take the firſt opportunity to move for in Congreſs, and uſe your utmoſt endeavours to have prepared and tranſmitted, an humble petition to the throne*, diſavowing in the moſt ſolemn manner, all deſign in theſe colonies of independence, and declaring in explicit terms, that they have nothing more in view than the eſtabliſhment of their juſt rights, expreſſing the ſtrongeſt deſire to be reſtored to the confidence of their ſovereign, and to that happy connection which ſubſiſted between them and the parent ſtate before their preſent troubles began, and praying the royal interpoſition with parliament for the ſpeedy reſtoration of peace and tranquility to the divided empire. As upon the obtention of theſe great objects we ſhall think it our greateſt happineſs to be firmly united to Great-Britain *in a conſtitutional dependence upon the imperial crown and parliament thereof*, we think proper to inſtruct you, that ſhould any propoſition be happily made by the crown or parliament that may lead to, or lay a rational and probable ground for reconciliation, you uſe your utmoſt endeavours to cultivate and improve it into a happy ſettlement and laſting amity; taking care to ſecure the united colonies againſt the exerciſe of the right aſſumed by parliament to tax America, and to alter and change the charters and conſtitutions of the ſaid colonies, which cannot be admitted without deſtroying the eſſential ſecurity of the lives, liberties and properties of the coloniſts.

We further inſtruct you, that you do not, *without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention* of this province, aſſent to any propoſition to declare theſe colonies independent of the crown of Great-Britain; nor to any propoſition for making or entering into alliance with any foreign power; nor to any union or confederation of theſe colonies which may neceſſarily lead to a ſeparation from the mother country. Deſirous as we are of peace with Great Britain upon ſafe and honourable terms, we wiſh you nevertheleſs, and inſtruct you to join with the other colonies in ſuch military operations as you ſhall judge proper and neceſſary for the common defence until ſuch a peace can be happily obtained. At the ſame time that we aſſure you we have an entire confidence in your abilities and integrity in the diſcharge of the great truſt repoſed in you, we muſt obſerve to you as our opinion, that in the relation of conſtituent and repreſentative, one principal ſecurity of the former is the right he holds to be fully informed of the conduct of the latter. We can conceive no caſe to exiſt in which it would be of more importance to exerciſe this right than the preſent, nor any in which we can ſuppoſe the repreſentative would more willingly acquieſce in the exerciſe of it; we therefore inſtruct you, that you frequently from time to time, as occaſions may offer, lay before the Convention of this province the proceedings and the part you take in the general deliberations of the Congreſs, except ſuch military operations as may be judged neceſſary to be kept ſecret.

To determine the propriety of this province urging the Congreſs to petition the king of Great-Britain in *January laſt*, it may be proper to obſerve, that the petition propoſed was, in ſubſtance, and almoſt in words, the ſame with the one ſent by the Congreſs, and then lying before the throne. The proclamation declaring all the colonies in rebellion, was iſſued a few days after the arrival and knowledge of our petition, and was publiſhed in all the news-papers. It was alſo well known that the parliament was called and expected to meet in October. The petition propoſed would not probably arrive in England before the month of March, before which time the meaſures of parliament muſt have been taken, [b] and would not be in the leaſt influenced by the petition. To ſend a ſecond petition of the ſame nature, before a knowledge of the fate of the firſt, could anſwer no other purpoſe but to diſcover an unreaſonable fondneſs for peace, and encourage a wicked and implacable tyrant in the purſuit of his diabolical ſchemes. This part of the inſtructions were agreed to by the Convention, and ſtruck out, on the next day, after the receipt of the king's ſpeech.

The inſtruction not to aſſent to any propoſition of independency, for a foreign alliance, nor to any union of the colonies, which might neceſſarily lead to a ſeparation, without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention, might have produced the moſt fatal conſequences to all America. Caſes might have happened in which it would have been expedient to have formed foreign alliances without any delay: if they could not be entered into without the conſent of Maryland, tho' a very great majority of the colonies ſhould eſteem ſuch meaſure wiſe and abſolutely neceſſary, the opportunity of ſaving America might have been loſt. The Congreſs alone could have the beſt intelligence and comprehenſive view of our affairs, and would be the moſt capable judges when this ſtep ought to be taken. Intereſt, policy and neceſſity would induce this province not to ſeparate from her ſiſter colonies. Why then diſcover a diſtruſt and want of confidence in the Congreſs, that is a majority of the colonies? Why diſcloſe to the world that this province would not be bound to unite with a majority of them?

An AMERICAN.

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[a] *James Holyday, Charles Carroll, barriſter, James Tilghman, Gulſtruf Scot, and Benjamin Rawlins, Eſquires.*

[b] *Lord North's conciliatory propoſitions, and the commiſſioners to treat with the colonies, were not known in Maryland, when the inſtructions were given.*

In CONVENTION, May 22, 1776.

RESOLVED, That a public salt-work be erected on or near the Bay, near the mouth of Patowmack, and another on the sea board of this province; and that the said works be carried on on the public account, under the management and direction of such persons as shall be appointed by the Council of Safety for the time being; and that any sum of public money, not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds, may, by order of the said Council of Safety, be expended in erecting and carrying on each of the said works.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

In COUNCIL of SAFETY, June 10, 1776.

ALL persons who are willing to undertake the erecting and carrying on salt-works, agreeable to the above resolve of the late Convention, are requested to attend the Council, and give in their proposals, which will be duly attended to.

By order,

G. DUVALL, clk.

I HEREBY give notice to the representatives of the estate of James Maccubbin, deceased, that unless they indemnify me by the 22d instant, from the claims of the creditors against said estate, I will expose the same to sale in order to discharge the said claims.

3w WILLIAM WOODWARD, admr.

June 6, 1776.

THE copartnership of the subscribers being now at an end, all persons indebted are desired to settle their accounts either by bond or note; those that do not comply by the 20th of July, may depend on application being made to the committee of licence, without respect to persons.

w3 JAMES LEATCH,
GILBERT IRELAND.

Upper Marlborough, Prince-George's county, June 25, 1776.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a Scots woman, who calls herself Custen Stewart, and says she belongs to a certain Robert Fryer, about 20 miles above Alexandria in Virginia, on the Leesburg road. She is a lusty young woman, and has on an old country cloth jacket, a pretty good country cloth petticoat, and a country flaxen linen shirt. Her master is desired to pay charges and take her from

3w RALPH FORSTER.

EIGHT DOLLARS REWARD.

Paxton, June 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Paxton township, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th day of May, an indented servant lad named JAMES HANNAH, about 18 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, of a ruddy complexion, short brown hair, full faced and well made: had on when he went away, an old whitish coloured coat with metal buttons, a coarse blue broadcloth jacket, a pair of striped linen trousers, a new felt hat, and a pair of black yarn stockings, half worn shoes, with steel buckles, can neither read nor write. Whoever takes up said servant and secures him, so as his master may have him again, shall have the above reward and reasonable charges, paid by

w2 JOSEPH HUTCHINSON.

N. B. All recruiting officers in the navy and army are requested not to inlist him, and all masters of vessels are forbid to carry him off.

June 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, near Elk-Ridge church, the 11th instant at night, the two following convicts, to wit.

JAMES WILSON, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, short black hair, black eyes: had on and took with him, a black and white striped country cloth jacket with sleeves, wove plain, with pewter buttons resembling a dollar, white country cloth breeches, kersey wove (patched on the knees with striped cloth), new country linen shirts, coarse shoes with strings, thread stockings, felt hat bound round the edge, and red silk handkerchief. He ran away last year, and was committed to Harford jail by the name of MILES TOWNSEND, which likely is his proper name, as he is marked on the back of the hand MT with Indian ink, and on the thighs MT. IW and several other letters, and the dates of sundry years; has been in the country about 3 years, and pretends to be a mason.

EDMUND WELLS, about 18 or 19 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, much pitted with the small-pox, sandy hair curled behind and cut short on the top of the head, speaks hastily, and frequently uses the word mortal, as mortal good, mortal bad, and the like: had on and took with him, white country cloth jacket and breeches kersey wove (the breeches patched with striped cloth), new country linen shirts, mixed yarn stockings, shoes with buckle straps, but has no hat unless he steals one. He went off in May last and attempted to pass as a deserter from a man of war, and having been in the naval service he knows the officers and duties on board. Each had on an iron collar when they went off; it is likely they may change cloaths and names.

Whoever takes up and secures said servants, shall have if 30 miles from home 30 shillings, if 40 miles 40 shillings, and if out of the province 5 pounds, including what the law allows, and reasonable charges if brought home.

THOMAS SAPPINGTON.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office,

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION
OF THE
PROVINCE of MARYLAND,
Held at the city of Annapolis, on Wednesday the 8th of May, 1776.

June 5, 1776.

THE Subscriber will attend at Talbot county Court-House, on every Tuesday of the week, for the purpose of giving in exchange bills of credit, emitted by the Provincial Convention the seventh day of December, 1775, for those emitted by the Provincial Convention the twenty-sixth day of July, 1775.

6w WILLIAM HINDMAN,
treasurer of the Eastern-shore.

FIFTEEN POUNDS REWARD.

Annapolis, June 12, 1776.

RAN away last night from the subscribers, the following English servant men, viz.

JOHN FERGUSON (who frequently went by the name of FOX, from the colour of his hair, it being very red), about 20 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, thin visage, pitted with the small-pox: had on and took with him, when he went away, two check shirts, one osnabrig jacket, one frize ditto, two pair of osnabrig trousers, and a half worn straw hat lined with green silk, and had a green ribbon round the crown.

HENRY PRATT, about 20 years of age, who professes the art of cookery, a little pitted with the small pox, short black hair, very thin visage: had on and took with him, when he went away, one white cloth jacket, one osnabrig ditto, two check shirts, two pair of osnabrig trousers, a new pair of pumps, and an old castor hat.

RICHARD CARRINGTON, about 23 years of age, by trade a cabinet-maker, about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, very much pitted with the small-pox, stoops in his shoulders, short light coloured hair, very talkative when in liquor: had on and took with him, when he went away, a short brown cloth coat trimmed with white metal buttons, one bath-coating jacket, one pair of osnabrig trousers, two brown sheeting shirts; he also took with him a silver mounted cutteau with a white bone hilt, the blade very strait and badly polished, and the scabbard half finished.

There was also taken from the Dock the same night, a yellow bottom BOAT, about 25 feet keel, with black bends and gunwales, not finished in the cabbin, no hatches, and the sails but indifferent; the fore-sail much longer than the main-sail, the main gaff much too long; the property of Gilbert Middleton, one of the subscribers; and it is supposed that they went off in that boat, as John Ferguson frequently went in her as a hand. It is probable that they may quit the boat and pass for deserters from lord Dunmore, knowing that such are much countenanced throughout this continent.

Whoever takes up said servants and secures them and the boat, so that the owners may get them again, shall be entitled to the above reward, or if the servants only are taken and brought home, or secured so that the owners may get them again, shall receive ten pounds, or in proportion for any of them, or five pounds for securing the boat, and reasonable charges if brought home, paid by

tf GILBERT MIDDLETON,
or
SHAW & CHISHOLM.

Upper Marlborough, June 1, 1776.

THE subscriber, intending to quit the province as soon as he can bring his affairs into such compass as to be left to an agent, earnestly intreats all persons indebted to him to settle their accounts, by giving bond with security for their respective balances. Those who do not comply with this reasonable request, may depend that immediate application will be made to the committee for leave to bring suits against them; and all persons who have claims against him are desired to bring them in, that they may be adjusted and discharged. The different deputy sheriffs of Prince-George's county have lists of all balances due to him as sheriff, and should any dispute arise on such balances, and on application to himself he may not be able to satisfy the person about it, he will readily submit such to any one, two or more gentlemen in the neighbourhood where such person lives who disputes them; and, for the ease of those who cannot pay money, he will take tobacco, corn, cattle, horses, sheep, or any thing else they may have to dispose of, that there is the least prospect of turning into cash soon, in discharge of them.

tf RALPH FORSTER.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Annapolis, a negro fellow named FLANDERS; he has no toes, and has been used to go by water. Whoever will take him up and bring him home to his mistress shall have three pounds reward, including what the law allows.

ANNE GAITHER.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Calvert county, on Monday the 10th of June, a lusty negro fellow named WILL: had on when he went away, a country cloth jacket, osnabrig shirt and trousers; 'tis probable he may alter his dress. Whoever takes up the said negro, or secures him in any gaol, so as I may get him again, shall be entitled to a reward of twenty shillings, besides what the law allows.

ALEXANDER OGG.

June 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Prince-George's county, near Mr. Richard Snowden's Iron-works, on Sunday last, a convict servant man named WILLIAM SHEPPARD, by trade a shoemaker, about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, has short brown hair, is of a swarthy complexion, and has an ugly down look. He has been hurt in his right leg, which causes him to limp and to walk on the end of his toes on that side: had on and took with him a castor hat almost new, an old claret coloured coat much torn on the shoulders, new green jacket, osnabrig shirt, old leather breeches patched on the knees, white yarn stockings, and an old pair of shoes.

The above servant ran away on the 10th of May last and was taken up and brought home a day or two before he took his last departure. He stole out of my pasture on Sunday last a young black mare 3 years old, about 13 hands 3 inches high, docked but not branded, her off hind foot white. He also took with him a set of shoemakers tools.

Whoever secures the said servant and mare, so that their master may get them again, shall receive five pounds reward: for the servant alone three pounds, and for the mare forty shillings, and if brought home all reasonable charges, paid by

tf JOSEPH DUVALL.

Pig-Point, June 14, 1776.

WANTED,

A GOOD WEAVER. Either a single man or a man with a small family, that will come well recommended, shall meet with encouragement, by applying

w4 WILLIAM SIMMONS, son of Richard.

Annapolis, June 19, 1776.

WANTED TO HIRE IMMEDIATELY,

A SINGLE MAN, who understands waiting at table, and can write a good hand. Such a person, of good character, may hear of a place, where good encouragement will be given, by applying to the printer hereof.

WANTED at Fort Frederick furnace and J. J. Forge in Frederick county, a large quantity of cord wood cut. Any persons that are willing to hire their negroes for that purpose, may know the terms, by applying to Mr. Lancelot Jacques in Annapolis, or to the subscriber living at the works.

DENTON JACQUES.

THOMAS HARWOOD, jun. treasurer of the Western-shore, will give constant attendance at his office in West-street, Annapolis, to give in exchange bills of credit emitted by the Provincial Convention of Maryland the seventh day of December, 1775, for those emitted by the Convention the twenty-sixth day of July, 1775.

THREE PENCE per pound is given for fine white LINEN RAGS, and one penny per pound for coarse, by the Printer hereof.

Charles county, May 31, 1776.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro man by the name of Phil, who says he belongs to Robert Smith, living in Frederick county; the fellow is well known here, having some time ago lived with one Peter Green of this county, who (as I understand) sold him to said Smith. His master is desired to pay charges and take him from

4w WILLIAM HANSON, sheriff.

Patuxent Iron-Works, February 6, 1776.

BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron-Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. Also all persons that are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such methods as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to

tf SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED away from the widow M'Donall's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March, out of the fodder house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces, trots, and gallops, marked C S on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid if brought home.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by [illegible]